

Snohomish County

COMPLETION REPORT

Coastal Zone Management Grant Project

FY 1985

July, 1985

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Summary Account

The following summarizes the two elements completed under Snohomish County's FY 1985 Coastal Zone Management Grant No. G085031B.

1. Snohomish River Delta Lobes Preservation Strategy

The 1974 Snohomish Mediated Agreement recommended preservation of nine wetland units in the Snohomish River estuary. Subsequent feasibility studies have confirmed this need, while the loss of significant wetlands has continued. This element of the Snohomish County Shoreline Management Program has both refined previous recommendations for individual parcels and identified a long-term management approach, incorporating the needs and responsibilities of the various agencies with regulatory authority. The study attained the following core objectives:

- a. Gather, review, and update existing resource data and develop a reference bibliography; summarize existing recommendations into an outline report.
- b. Formulate a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of local landowners, governmental agencies, and special interest groups; ascertain their concerns, interests, needs, and/or responsibilities and develop appropriate preservation alternatives.
- c. Develop action strategies, with cost estimates, and identify potential funding sources for an implementation plan that could be effectively carried out by a lead agency or group.

Snohomish County subcontracted with Shapiro and Associates, Inc. of Seattle for completion of the preservation strategy. Their thorough understanding of wetland issues and prior experience in habitat assessment within the Snohomish River estuary contributed to a timely and effective work effort. Completion of this element has resulted in publication of a report entitled SNOHOMISH RIVER WETLAND UNITS PRESERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN, attached as Exhibit A.

The plan has been provided to all Technical Advisory Committee participants and will be formally presented to the Snohomish County Council for consideration of further action. Copies are also available for review by interested groups and individuals.

2. Shoreline Stabilization Pamphlet

A brochure on shoreline stabilization and flood protection has been prepared for distribution to the general public.

The public is frequently confused about what regulations govern these activities. The brochure, the third in a series funded under a CZM grant, attempts to alleviate misunderstanding by explaining the Shoreline Management Act of 1971 and its purpose, and the county's Shoreline Management Master Program and Title 21 and their purpose in regulating activities in shoreline areas.

Following discussion of the permit process, the brochure presents the policies and regulations governing the placement and construction of shoreline stabilization projects in the various shoreline environmental designations. Lastly, the brochure lists other county departments, state and federal agencies having permit authority over shoreline stabilization and flood protection measures.

The pamphlet will be available to the public and will be displayed in the public waiting/reception areas in the offices of the Department of Planning and Community Development. The brochure "A Citizen's Guide to Shoreline Stabilization and Flood Protection" is attached as Exhibit B.

List of Documents Prepared

Element 1:

- Outline Report for the Snohomish River Delta Lobes Preservation Management Plan (May, 1985)
- Snohomish River Wetland Units Preservation Management Plan (June, 1985)

Element 2:

- Citizen's Guide to Shoreline Stabilization and Flood Protection (Pamphlet - June, 1985)

ABSTRACT

TITLE: Snohomish River Wetland Units Preservation
Management Plan

AUTHOR: Shapiro and Associates, Inc.
The Smith Tower, Suite 1812
506 Second Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104

Principal Authors:
Ronald D. Kranz
Marc E. Boule

SUBJECT: The plan identifies nine significant wetland units within
the Snohomish River estuary and recommends a long-term preservation
strategy

DATE: June, 1985

DEPARTMENT AND PARTICIPATING LOCALITIES: The Washington Department
of Ecology entered into a grant contract with Snohomish
County as authorized by Section 306 of the Coastal Zone
Management Act of 1972.

SOURCE OF COPIES: Mr. Tom Niemann, Resource Planner
Snohomish County Planning Division
5th Floor County Administration Building
Everett, Washington 98201
(206) 259-9313

WDOE PROJECT NUMBER: G085031B

SERIES NUMBER: N/A

NUMBER OF PAGES: 113

ABSTRACT NARRATIVE:

The purpose of the plan is to recommend a preservation management strategy to ensure that nine Snohomish River estuary wetland units are preserved in their existing or in an enhanced condition. In 1974, the Snohomish Basin Mediated Agreement documented the need to protect significant wetland parcels in the River Basin. The nine target parcels are known to represent great natural diversity for resident and anadromous fish and water-dependent wildlife, and to provide valuable flood storage capacity. Following the Mediated Agreement, other studies have further documented the urgent need for preservation. Snohomish County initiated preparation of the management plan under its Shoreline Management Program so that a long-term framework for maintaining the river delta could be established by affected agencies, interest groups and individuals.

Three core objectives were achieved:

- a. Gather, review, and update existing resource data and develop a reference bibliography; summarize existing recommendations into an outline report.

- b. Formulate a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of local landowners, governmental agencies, and special interest groups; ascertain their concerns, interests, needs, and/or responsibilities and develop appropriate preservation alternatives.
- c. Develop action strategies, with cost estimates, and identify potential funding sources for an implementation plan that could be effectively carried out by a lead agency or group.

The plan discusses several alternative preservation mechanisms, with fee simple title acquisition being recommended for most wetland parcels. Three management alternatives are presented: government agency, nonprofit organization, and citizens group. The Technical Advisory Committee determined that a combined approach be employed to maximize the beneficial aspects of each. A framework consistent with this direction is provided in the plan.

The report concludes with discussion of projected acquisition costs/timing and short- and long-term implementation objectives.

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What other departments and agencies have permitting authority?

There are other departments and agencies which require permits for shoreline stabilization and flood protection. They are:

Snohomish County Community Development Division. Requires a permit for such construction.

Snohomish County Planning Division. Requires a Flood Control Zone permit for work done in the flood plains of rivers and lakes.

State Departments of Game and Fisheries. Under RCW 75.20.100, a Hydraulics Project Approval (HPA) is required for work within the ordinary high water line of a water body.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, a Section 10 permit may be required for work within navigable waters and associated wetlands.

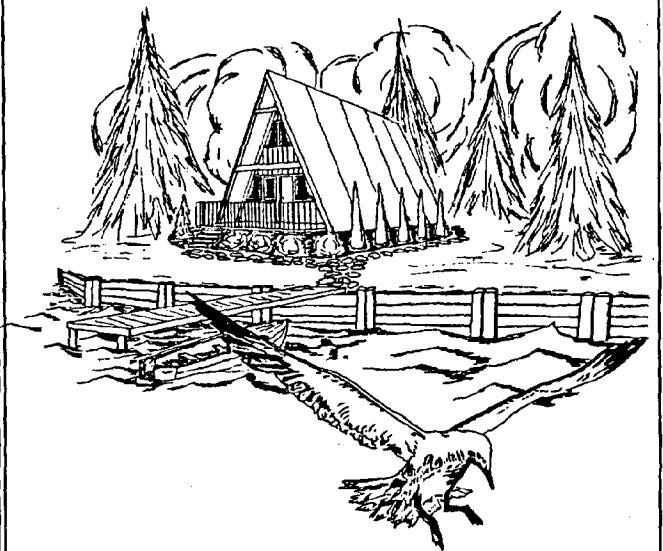
Under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, a Section 404 permit is required for discharge of dredged or fill material within navigable waters and associated wetlands. A Section 404 permit may be required in addition to a Section 10 permit, depending on the type of fill.

"The preparation of this report was financially aided through a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology with funds obtained from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and appropriated for Section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management of 1972."

**Citizen's Guide
to**

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY
SHORELINE MANAGEMENT
MASTER PROGRAM**

**SHORELINE STABILIZATION
and
FLOOD PROTECTION**



Snohomish County Planning Division

FOREWORD

Dear Citizen:

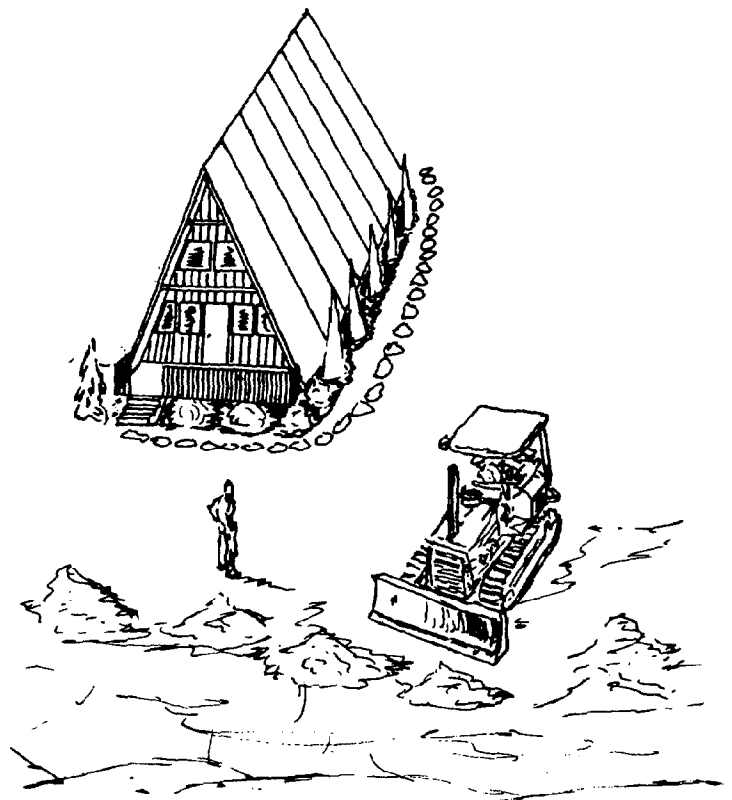
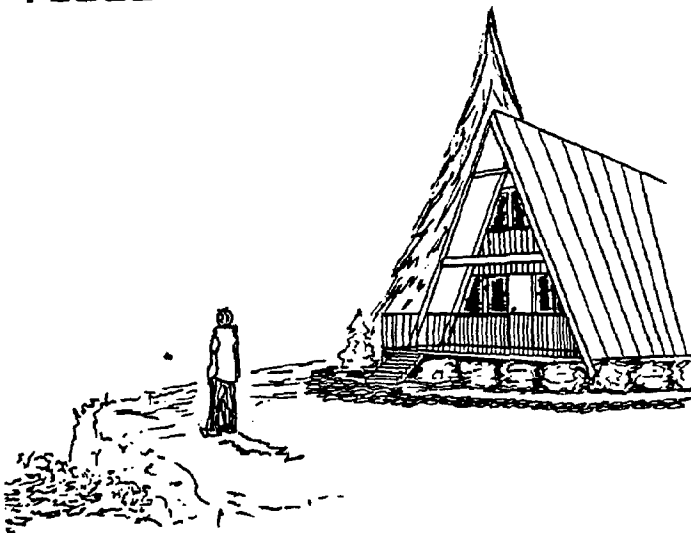
This brochure is one in a series intended to simplify the complexities of the County's Shoreline Management Master Program. Our master program, which was developed in 1974 as a response to the requirements in the Washington State Shoreline Management Act of 1971, was written under the direction of a 50-member citizens advisory committee and was part of an extensive citizen participation process. The purpose of the County's master program and the State Shoreline Management Act is to promote public interest in the use of our shoreline areas and in particular to preserve the natural shoreline character, protect the shoreline resources and ecology, increase public access, and improve public recreational opportunities, while maintaining public navigation and corollary rights. In the decade since its adoption, the County's Shoreline Management Master Program has served its purpose well.

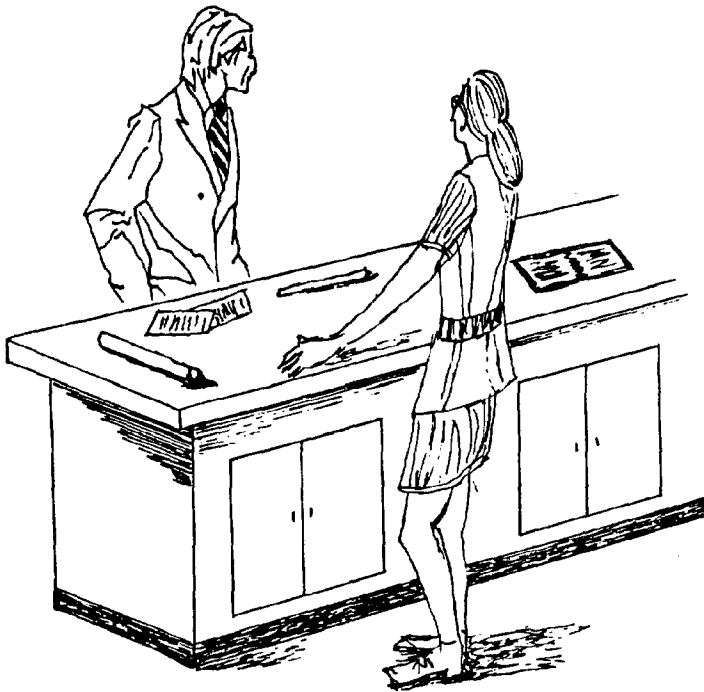
The Master Program is unique in the sense that it is both a long-range policy plan and a set of regulations which ensure that its objectives are eventually realized. The purpose of this brochure is to simplify these regulations and make them easy to comply with. This brochure includes definitions, descriptions of where the various regulations apply, and a step-by-step procedure explaining how to apply for a permit when one is necessary. We hope you find this brochure helpful and that your experience with the Snohomish County Shoreline Management Master Program is a productive one.

The Shoreline Planner will check to see if your property is located within a shoreline area and, if so, what environment designation. Second, the planner will refer to the regulations to determine if shoreline stabilization measures are permitted in your area, and if so, the policies and regulations it must comply with.

More general inquiries regarding the County's shoreline management activities may also be directed to the Shoreline Planner.

SHORELINE STABILIZATION and FLOOD PROTECTION





Will I need a permit ?

If you want to riprap or use other protective measures to stabilize the shoreline of a river or streambank in any wetland area in Snohomish County, you need to comply with the regulations contained in the Shoreline Management Act of 1971 (RCW 90.58) and the Snohomish County Shoreline Management Master Program (Title 21). These regulations govern land use in the shoreline areas of Snohomish County.

By definition, a shoreline area includes: All marine waters, streams with a mean annual flow of 20 cubic feet per second or more, and lakes larger than 20 acres. The shoreline regulations also apply landward for 200 feet from these water bodies and all associated marshes, bogs, swamps, and flood plains.

Who can help me determine my Shoreline Stabilization and Flood Protection permit requirements?

To determine whether your shoreline stabilization and flood protection proposal requires a Shoreline Substantial Development permit, and what specific standards apply, contact the Shoreline Planner in the Snohomish County Planning Division, 259-9311. You may be asked to provide the following information regarding the proposal:

- a. Purpose of project;
- b. Hydraulic characteristics of river within one-half mile on each side of proposed project;
- c. Existing shoreline stabilization and flood protection devices within one-half mile on each side of proposed project;
- d. Construction material and methods;
- e. Resultant hydraulic characteristics of river.

Shoreline stabilization and flood protection including the placement of riprap are designed to protect against erosion of a shoreline. Generally such measures are taken to protect improvements already existing on the property. Materials most commonly used to stabilize shorelines are large rock, logs or concrete.

If you are proposing a project which costs more than \$1,000 (fair market value) within 200 feet of a wetland or a shoreline covered by the Master Program, you must apply for a Shoreline Substantial Development permit from Snohomish County. It will take approximately 75 to 90 days to process a Substantial Development Permit so you should apply well before you plan to begin construction of your project. If your project costs less than \$1,000, the measures must still comply with the regulations contained in the county Shoreline Management Master Program, but no permit is needed.



Where is shoreline stabilization and flood protection allowed ?

Shoreline stabilization and flood protection measures unless carefully designed and located, can have a potentially adverse impact on the overall hydraulic operation of the streamway corridor. Improperly designed bank protection can disrupt valuable aquatic spawning, rearing, and feeding areas. Unless properly designed and constructed, bank protection material may quickly wash out in high waters, eventually being deposited elsewhere downstream.

The Shoreline Management Master Program assigns all of the shorelines in the county to one of five distinct categories based on their degree of environmental sensitivity. The five categories are called "Natural", "Conservancy", "Rural", "Suburban", and "Urban", with the most sensitive shoreline areas being assigned to the "Natural" category and the least sensitive shoreline areas being assigned to the "Urban" category. The system is designed to encourage land uses in each master program category which are most compatible with the shoreline environment. Some land uses, including shoreline stabilization, are prohibited in the more sensitive shoreline environments. For example,

- Shoreline stabilization and flood protection measures are not permitted in environments with a Natural designation

- In other environments, shoreline stabilization and flood protection may be permitted provided it complies with established policies and regulations. For example, protection measures shall be designed and constructed so that downstream banks will not be adversely affected. All designs must be reviewed and confirmed by the County Engineer.
- Shoreline stabilization measures shall be designed and constructed in such a manner as to not result in channelization of normal stream flow.
- Shoreline stabilization measures are allowed in floodways and the 100-year flood plain only when their purpose is to protect existing development or prime agricultural land or to prevent serious impairment of channel function.
- Streambank vegetation shall be preserved to the maximum extent feasible consistent with safe construction requirements.
- All stabilization designs should recognize and protect the integrity of a water body's hydraulic system.

Shoreline stabilization measures such as riprap are generally only permitted on shorelines of prime agricultural lands or properties with existing improvements that are threatened with damage due to shoreline erosion.